

Large Flock of White-fronted Chats.—It is customary for the White-fronted Chat (*Epthianura albifrons*) to associate in small flocks during the greater part of the year, but when driving through the Cannington district on February 28, 1952, Mr. G. F. Parton and I saw an astonishing number of these birds congregated in a few acres of grazing fields adjacent to the roadside. Everywhere over the ground at this spot the birds swarmed, and parties of 20 to 30 were constantly flying up to settle again near at hand. We found it impossible to form any true estimate of their numbers, but certainly many hundreds were present in the one small area. We watched them turning broken pieces of dung with a forward thrust of the bill, and noticed that there were more females—and juveniles—than adult males amongst those that moved close to us.

—W. H. LOARING, Bickley.

Red-eared Firetail Finch at Wongong.—While camped at Chandler's Farm on the Wongong near Jarrahdale on April 20, 1952, I saw four Red-eared Firetail Finches (*Zonaeeginthus oculatus*). These birds, once to be found in the coastal regions around Perth, are now only common in the south-west corner of the State, though also found in the Darling Range gullies north to the Mundaring reservoir (*Birds of Western Australia* by Serventy and Whittell, 1951).

On this occasion the birds were first noticed owing to the red flash from the rump. They came within 20 yards of the campfire during the breakfast period at 8 a.m. Four individuals were seen and followed up the creek for some 40 or 50 yards, when they began to return to the campsite as though under some territorial influence. Most of the time the birds were on the ground, rising into the trees when disturbed.

—V. N. SERVENTY, Subiaco.

Southern Emu-Wren at Gosnells.—On May 25, 1952, when hiking around the Sixty-ft. Waterfall in the Darling Range at Gosnells, I was most interested in meeting with the Southern Emu-Wren (*Stipiturus malachurus*). It was in low scrub country on the flat where a creek flows out of the hills on to the plain. The only water in the creek at the time was in a few rock pools and these seemed to attract the birds. Some Blue Wrens (*Malurus splendens*) were also in the vicinity.

I actually saw only one Emu-Wren, which was difficult to observe as it darted from one bush to another, keeping well undercover. I walked on about ten yards and watched the bush with glasses. After a while the bird came in full view, displaying its blue throat and distinctive tail. I was unable to locate a female.

This is the first time I have seen this species at Gosnells, but it is likely it has been overlooked owing to its secretive habits.

—P. KNEEBONE, Gosnells.